



# Press Release

National  
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**In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry**Louisiana Field Office • 5825 Florida Blvd • Baton Rouge, LA 70806 • (225) 922-1362 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

On: March 1 Crop Report

For Information Contact:

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Terry Mathews  
800.256.4485

## Louisiana Cotton Acreage Hits Record Low

“Planting intentions from our March 1 survey indicate that Louisiana cotton acreage will be the lowest on record,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Crisp noted that planting intentions for rice, sorghum, and sweet potatoes are up from 2009, and harvested acreage of hay is expected to increase.

“The prospective planting intentions reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1,” Crisp cautions. “Actual acreage planted may increase or decrease based on what happens during the rest of the planting season.” NASS will conduct a June 1 survey to update planted acreage estimates and will release estimates from that survey on June 30, 2010.

**Cotton** growers intend to plant 200,000 acres, down 30,000 acres (13 percent) from a year ago. The **U.S.** planted area for **all cotton** this year is expected to total 10.5 million acres, 15 percent above last year. **Upland cotton** acreage is expected to total 10.3 million acres, up 15 percent.

Louisiana’s **corn** farmers expect to plant 530,000 acres, down 100,000 acres (16 percent) from a year ago. The **U.S. Corn** acreage planted for all purposes is estimated at 88.8 million acres, up three percent from both last year and 2008.

**Grain sorghum** intentions indicate acreage will total 100,000 acres in the state, up 30,000 acres (43 percent) from 2009. **U.S. grain sorghum** area in 2010 is estimated at 6.4 million acres, down four percent from 2009.

Louisiana’s **soybean** planted acreage is expected to decrease by 10,000 acres (one percent) from last year, to 1.01 million acres. **U.S. Soybean** planted area is estimated at 78.1 million acres, up less than one percent from last year. If realized, the United States planted area will be the largest on record.

**Rice** planted acreage in Louisiana is expected to increase to 510,000 acres, up 40,000 acres (nine percent) from last year. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 470,000 acres. Producers intend to plant 40,000 acres of medium grain varieties. **Rice** planted area for the **U.S.** is expected to total 3.4 million acres, up nine percent from 2009.

**Sweet potato** planted acreage in the state is expected to total 16,000 acres, up 2,000 acres (14 percent) from last year. **Sweet potato** acreage for the **U.S.** is estimated at 117,100 acres this year, up seven percent from last year and 13 percent above 2008.

**Winter wheat** acreage seeded last fall is estimated at 150,000 acres, down 35,000 acres (19 percent) from seedings for the 2009 crop. The **U.S. all wheat** planted area is estimated at 53.8 million acres, down nine percent from 2009. The 2010 **winter wheat** planted area, at 37.7 million acres, is down 13 percent from the 43.3 million acres planted for the 2009 crop.

An estimated 440,000 acres of **hay** will be harvested, up 60,000 acres (16 percent) from last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 60.5 million acres of **all hay** in 2010, up one percent from 2009.

The first 2010 estimate of **sugarcane** acreage for harvest will be available on June 30, 2010.